3. (Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 2, wherein the number of conductors [wires] in the group of conductors [wires] is fewer than the number of heating element sets.

8. (Amended) A microscope slide stainer with random access slide staining capability, comprising:

a plurality of microscope slides bearing biologic samples, positioned on a moving platform;

a plurality of heating element sets on the moving platform, each set having at least one heating element and each set capable of heating at least one slide, each capable of heating to a temperature distinct from the temperature of other heaters;

a user interface through which a desired temperature for each microscope slide is specified, said user interface being mounted off of the moving platform and said user interface comprising electronic circuitry; and,

a group of conductors [wires], for providing an electrical connection between the heating elements on the moving platform and the user interface, the number of conductors [wires] in said group of conductors [wires] being less than the number of heater element sets.

10. (Amended) An automated device for preparation or incubation of biologic samples, comprising:

a moving platform adapted to support a plurality of biologic samples;

a plurality of heaters positioned on the moving platform so as to provide heat to one or more samples;

a computer that specifies the desired temperature for each heater, said computer being mounted off of the moving platform;

independent heating control to each of said heaters capable of heating the heaters to different temperatures, said heating control comprising:

a plurality of temperature controller electronic circuits mounted on the moving platform, each supplying electrical power to at least one heater; and

a data communication link between the computer and each of said temperature controller electronic circuits so that each of said temperature controller electronic circuits provides an appropriate amount of electrical power to each of said heaters so that each heater is heated to the computer-specified temperature.

Please add the following new claims:

14. A method for staining biologic samples mounted on microscope slides comprising:

placing two or more microscope slides on a moving platform;

providing heating elements capable of heating said slides, said heating elements being under independent electronic control and thereby capable of heating some slides to a different temperature than other slides; and

one the moving platform, heating one slide to a different temperature than a second slide.

15. A method for staining biologic samples mounted on microscope slides as claimed in claim 14, wherein each heating elements heats only one slide.

16. A method for staining biologic samples mounted on microscope slides as claimed in claim 14, wherein the moving platform is capable of indexing slides adjacent to a stationary liquid dispensing location.

17. A method for staining biologic samples mounted on microscope slides as claimed in claim 14, wherein said heating elements are mounted on said moving platform.

REMARKS

It was noted in the Office Action that the application was filed with informal drawings and that formal drawings would be required when the application is allowed. Please note that formal drawings were received at the Patent Office on June 1, 1998. Acceptance of those drawings is requested.

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